

Here is information on how Boston residents shall prepare their rubbish and recycling for collection, and what items will and will not be collected from the curb.

Trash barrels and garbage bags

1. Residents shall use barrels with adequate storage capacity for the refuse generated in their home. The barrels shall be metal or durable plastic, not larger than 20 inches in diameter or more than 28 inches in height. Securely-tied 30-gallon garbage bags of 2-mil plastic or 2-ply wet-strength paper bags may also be used.
2. Refuse and recycling containers shall not be placed out before 5:00 PM of the evening before the day of the scheduled collection, but not later than 7:00 AM of the scheduled collection day. Containers shall be removed from the sidewalk or alley as soon as possible and not later than 12 hours after collection.

Acceptable Materials for Rubbish Collection--includes most household items, such as:

- air conditioner*
- ashes (from furnace or stove)
- clothes' dryer*
- dishwasher*
- food waste
- furniture
- hot water heater*
- household appliances
- mattress and box spring
- rags
- refrigerator*
- stove*
- wall paper
- washing machine*

* Note these items are recycled. Refrigerators and air conditioners will be collected separately on refuse collection day.

Unacceptable Rubbish**

- household appliances and furniture exceeding 350 pounds or 2 cubic yards in volume
- automotive components
- bricks
- construction materials
- demolition materials
- dirt, rocks, stones
- fire debris
- fences
- hazardous materials--highly flammable & toxic products

- oil drums
- plumbing fixtures (toilets, pipes, etc.)
- propane tanks**
- recyclable materials**
- televisions and computer monitors**
- tires**
- yard waste**

** Note: If recyclable, residents shall recycle item. If reusable, donate to charity. Otherwise, residents shall hire a commercial rubbish hauler to collect these items. Look in Yellow Pages for listing.

Recyclable Materials for weekly curbside collection

Household Paper place in paper bag next to recycling Blue Box

- brown bags
- cardboard (3' x 3' or less, flatten & place under Blue Box)
- catalogs
- cereal boxes
- junk mail
- magazines
- milk cartons
- newspaper
- paperback books
- telephone books
- white and colored paper

*Household Containers place in recycling Blue Bin****

- glass bottles and jars
- juice boxes
- plastic containers #1-7
- tin & aluminum food & soda cans
- no plastic bags

***Note: residents living in households with 1 to 6 units can obtain a blue recycling bin by calling 617-635-4959. Apartment building landlords and property managers are required per city ordinance to provide recycling in their residences. They can participate in the city recycling services by calling 617-635-4959.

TV & Computer Monitor Recycling

For curbside collection call Public Works Sanitation Division 617-635-7574

Seasonal Yard Waste Collection

Yard Waste (leaves, weeds, grass, hedge trimmings, brush up to one inch in diameter and 3 feet in length) is collected for composting.

- Spring curbside collection: First 4 Saturdays in May
- Fall curbside collection: last Saturday in October, first 3 Saturdays in November and first 2 Saturdays in December

- Put yard waste in open barrels or paper leaf bags. Tie brush with string. Do not use plastic bags
- Christmas trees for curbside collection on trash day first 2 full weeks in January
- Saturday Drop-offs operate May through October. First Saturday of each month in Roxbury, second Saturday in Hyde Park, third Saturday in Brighton and fourth Saturday in East Boston.

Hazardous Waste (products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, corrosive and irritant) Household Hazardous Wastes Drop-off Days are held in the spring and fall at the University of Massachusetts in Dorchester. Tires, car batteries and propane tanks are also accepted for recycling.

Surplus Paint and Used Motor Oil Recycling

The Public Works Department operates four Surplus Paint and Used Motor Oil Recycling centers on Saturdays May through October. First Saturday of each month in Roxbury, second Saturday in Hyde Park, third Saturday in Brighton and fourth Saturday in East Boston.

Acceptable Materials

- Paint
- Stains
- Varnishes
- Polyurethane
- Solvents
- Used motor oil

Items in good condition are available to residents for free.